

c. a cross-linking agent for cross-linking said synthetic polymer and said associated natural organic material, said cross-linking agent being compatible with live entities, said cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate, and an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material and said cross-linking agent.

41(Formerly claim 33). The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

42(Formerly claim 34). The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

43(Formerly claim 35, newly amended). The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material

associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%, by weight.

44 (Formerly claim 36, newly amended). The tackifier of claim 40 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

45 (Formerly claim 37). The tackifier of claim 40 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

46 (Formerly claim 38). The tackifier of claim 40 which additionally includes of a fiber to form a slurry.